New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

Local Government

Saint John receives gas-tax transfer (07/07/24)

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SAINT JOHN (CNB) - The municipality of Saint John will undertake essential improvements to local infrastructure after receiving its first payment of $2,555,057 under the Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues and the Provincial Gas Tax Transfer Top-up Fund.

(Multimedia)

Supply and Services Minister Roly MacIntyre, who is also minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation; Fundy-Royal MP Rob Moore; and Saint John Mayor Norm McFarlane made the announcement today.

"Improving local infrastructure is a priority for New Brunswick," MacIntyre said. "This funding will give the City of Saint John the opportunity to address local infrastructure needs, and to improve the quality of life of its residents while providing them with a healthy environment. We recognize that municipalities across New Brunswick have a crucial role to play in the economic development of the province, and assisting them in building and maintaining safe and adequate infrastructure is another step in attaining self-sufficiency as a province."

MacIntyre attended on behalf of Finance Minister and Local Government Minister Victor Boudreau.

"The Government of Canada is moving forward on its commitment to support environmentally sustainable infrastructure in communities across Canada," Moore said. "I am pleased that the City of Saint John will be able to proceed with water and transportation infrastructure projects that will benefit the residents of Saint John, the environment and the economy. Today's announcement demonstrates what can be achieved when we work in partnership for the benefit of all Canadians."

Moore attended on behalf of Lawrence Cannon, minister of transport, infrastructure and communities.

The Government of Canada is providing $116 million over five years to New Brunswick through the Gas Tax Fund, and the province is adding $30 million in top-up funding. In total, $146 million will be provided to communities from 2005 to 2010 for investment in environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure. This summer, 21 New Brunswick communities will benefit from their first installment of gas tax funding.

"As Canada's oldest incorporated city, we have some of the oldest infrastructure in the country,"

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McFarlane said. "The Canada-New Brunswick Agreement on the Gas Tax Transfer will help us move forward with some significant projects that will improve the aging infrastructure in our community. We are very appreciative of the support our community will receive through the agreement because the investments will improve the quality of life for all citizens in Saint John."

New Brunswick communities will be using these funds for environmentally sustainable infrastructure projects such as clean water, wastewater, community-energy systems, solid-waste management, public transit, capacity building and transportation. In the case of Saint John, the money will go toward water projects, as well as transportation infrastructure projects.

To receive its first payment, each municipality must submit a five-year capital investment plan for review by the province, and sign an agreement contract with the Department of Local Government.

Today's announcement follows a similar one made late last year, which saw more than $2 million transferred to 20 other New Brunswick communities.

Gas tax funding is one component of the partnership investments the Government of Canada is making in infrastructure. In the 2007 budget the government announced an unprecedented $33-billion Building Canada infrastructure plan to provide long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. The plan will support a stronger, safer and healthier country through infrastructure projects that support cleaner air and water, a stronger economy, and a better quality of life for our communities.

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MEDIA CONTACTS: Marie-Josée Groulx, director of communications, Department of Local Government, New Brunswick, 506-443-3700; Natalie Sarafian, press secretary, Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, 613-991-0700; Infrastructure Canada, communications and promotion, 613-948-1148.

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